

REGULAR WEEKLY SESSION-----ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL

October 3, 2002

12:15 p.m.

The Council of the City of Roanoke met in regular session on Thursday, October 3, 2002, at 12:15 p.m., the regular meeting hour, in the City Council Chamber, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, Virginia, with Mayor Ralph K. Smith presiding, pursuant to Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, City Council, Section 2-15, Rules of Procedure, Rule 1, Regular Meetings, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended.

PRESENT: Council Members William D. Bestpitch, William H. Carder, M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., C. Nelson Harris, Linda F. Wyatt and Mayor Ralph K. Smith-----7.

ABSENT: None-----0.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

COMMITTEES-CITY COUNCIL: A communication from Mayor Ralph K. Smith requesting a Closed Meeting to discuss vacancies on various authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Mr. Carder moved that Council concur in the request of the Mayor to convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss vacancies on various authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Carder, Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

CITY MANAGER-CITY PROPERTY: A request of the City Manager for a Closed Meeting to discuss acquisition of real property for public purpose, where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City of Roanoke, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before Council.

Mr. Dowe moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager to convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss acquisition of real property for public purpose, where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City of Roanoke, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Carder, Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

ACTS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-CITY COUNCIL: A communication from Council Member William H. Carder requesting a Closed Meeting to discuss a special award being the "Shining Star" award, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(10), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Mr. Bestpitch moved that Council concur in the request to convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss a special award being the "Shining Star" award, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(10), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Carder, Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

At 12:20 p.m., the Mayor declared the meeting in recess to be immediately reconvened in the Emergency Operations Center Conference Room, Room 159, for a briefing on the future function and appearance of City of Roanoke streets.

At 12:25 p.m., the meeting reconvened in Room 159, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with all Members of the Council in attendance, Mayor Smith presiding.

TRAFFIC-STREETS AND ALLEYS: The City Manager introduced a briefing in connection with the future design and function of City streets, which was the topic of an August 2002 work session of Council and the City Planning Commission. She advised that the Comprehensive Plan adoption is a vehicle by which the City should continue to measure its performance and progress in making the City of Roanoke the most liveable City in the United States. She called attention to her commitment that a number of work sessions will be scheduled to provide an opportunity for Council to talk with City staff in a more informal setting regarding future policy direction activities within the City of Roanoke.

Robert K. Bengtson, Director, Public Works, presented an overview of the topic to set the stage for additional discussion, and explained the concept of the Comprehensive Plan relative to street design/function.

R. Brian Townsend, Director, Community Planning and Code Enforcement, highlighted the context of the Comprehensive Plan. He called attention to three basic policies regarding transportation; i.e.: to look at transportation issues from a regional perspective, development of transportation systems that are designed to look at the realistic approach to transportation which consists of more than just streets, pedestrians, greenways, mass transit, airport, roads, etc., and to integrate future land use with transportation planning. He advised that actions listed in the Comprehensive Plan relate to street classifications and priorities, design principles for City streets, policy actions toward development of greenways, bicycle routes and mass transit.

Council Member Bestpitch advised that he recently met with the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in his capacity as Chair of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, who stated that over 80 per cent of VDOT's planning staff has, in the past, been located in Richmond and only 20 per cent in the field; therefore, VDOT is working to reverse the ratio. Mr. Bestpitch stated that one of the first new transportation planning positions will be assigned to the Staunton District, and VDOT is trying to be more open to local government involvement in land use and transportation planning.

Mr. Townsend presented views of Roanoke's street network (x-ray view), grid constraints/limitations and examples of framework and non-framework streets. He advised that the general plan indicates that Roanoke is a transportation system of interconnecting grids, and identified breaks in the grids that are either man made, or natural barriers that begin to run their way through the City of Roanoke. He reviewed a sketch of framework and non-framework streets in the City and the role they play, and noted that framework streets are important for not only the movement of through traffic, but the connection with traffic systems within the City.

Kenneth H. King, Jr., Traffic Engineer, presented examples of street crossing sections in relation to what framework and non framework streets would look like. He stated that typically on a non framework street residential properties would be located on each side of the street, sidewalks along with a certain level of planting strips, parking on both sides of the street, and a parking lane. He referred to examples of framework streets in the City of Roanoke, and presented examples of framework and non framework streets in other localities.

Mr. Bengtson referenced joint efforts of City staff; i.e.: Public Works Department, the Urban Forestry and Landscape section of the Parks and Recreation Department, Planning and Code Enforcement, Roanoke Neighborhood Partnership,

and Economic Development, all of which are addressing the specific menu of options that should be compiled into a landscaping plan; which are considered to be enhancements and amenities. He referred to such things as different pavement treatments, sidewalk treatments, street trees, benches, gateway signage, undergrounding of utilities, all of which can fit together into a landscape/streetscape plan that can serve as a menu of options for streets in the future, whether they are streetscapes or non streetscapes. He mentioned efforts of the urban forestry division that could fit into a streetscape plan; the City Planning Commission is considering overhead versus underground utilities that can also fit into a streetscape plan, and neighborhood plans should also be considered. He stated that the ultimate goal is to establish a priority order for streetscaping in concert with the Comprehensive Plan and identify those streets that have been listed in the Comprehensive Plan as streetscape priorities, whether they are Route 460, Franklin Road or Brandon Avenue, and at the top of the list would be a streetscaping plan for I-581. He called attention to City streets that require redesign, reconstruction and retrofit, and advised that 10th Street is a success story in terms of plans that are forthcoming, because 10th Street started out as a four lane route design, however, following meetings with the neighborhood organization, it was deemed necessary to scale back to a two-lane roadway because traffic volumes along 10th Street plateaued several years ago with no foreseeable growth in the future. By contrast, he stated that there are challenges in regard to breathing life into the southeast area (Bullitt/Jamison Avenues) and the best way to do so in view of a pair of two lane roads on Bullitt and Jamison Avenues that carry thousands of vehicles per day. He noted that the challenge is to effect some type of change in terms of streetscape opportunities, and how to effect a change that will manage traffic in the area. He called attention to plans of the Northwest Neighborhood Environmental Organization for developing 5th Street adjacent to the Coca Cola Plant between Gilmer and Shenandoah Avenues, N. W. He advised that Williamson Road is a framework street that recently came up on the street paving program, which presented an opportunity to rework some of the striping on the roadway, given concerns about compatibility with the Comprehensive Plan. Therefore, he stated that staff would like to reassess Williamson Road as a part of the present general discussion with Council. He explained that the Williamson Road issue to date relates to efforts regarding resurfacing and safety improvements through restriping.

In regard to funding, Mr. Bengtson advised that none of the improvements will come without a cost and will involve projects that will require either local funding, some improvements could be made through TEA-21 highway enhancement grants, and there could be opportunities to include improvements as a part of the City's paving program or sidewalk, curb and gutter program, and resources will be necessary to maintain improvements as the City increases its streetscape assets which will require a greater level of attention and funding through the City's operating budget.

Discussion:

What is the best way to educate Council and the neighborhoods on the various options? What is in the best interest of the City and associated improvement costs?

There is a model that takes framework streets and applies land use, motor vehicle registration, and population, etc., and by weaving all of the information in with the street network, it is possible to create the amount of traffic volumes that can be expected on certain roads, which can also serve as a guide for the City to review trends of past performance, traffic volumes, how they match up with what has been projected, and allows City staff the opportunity to experiment.

The City Manager called attention to the need to focus on the land use issue and how land use affects speed, as well as the types of traffic calming and pedestrian friendly activities that might be needed. She advised that the Comprehensive Plan describes many streets that are challenges to the City as arterial streets; i.e.: Orange Avenue, Williamson Road, Bullitt/Jamison Avenues, Peters Creek Road, Brandon Avenue, Grandin Road, and Franklin Road, and the fact that the streets are categorized as arterial streets does not mean that they would have to be placed in a category that they could not be changed from arterial streets. She stated that it is hoped that today and in subsequent discussions with Council, City staff will receive clear policy guidance as to Council's priorities within the City, and those streets that Council would like City staff to target and begin to make small changes in view of the cost factor per linear foot for improvements. She stressed the importance of not taking any action in the next two to five years that the City will regret as it moves toward furthering elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

Discussion:

The City is currently more aware of physical fitness, bicycles and pedestrian friendly streets. There would be an advantage to looking at what other jurisdictions are experiencing.

The more mobile automobiles become, the less access citizens of the community will have. The Comprehensive Plan clarifies and frameworks the vision of the City of Roanoke, and the City must be careful if it continues with the suburban mentality that automobiles should be accessible at 40 - 45 miles per hour. The City should not do anything that is contrary to the Comprehensive Plan, and look at every area of the City to identify some way of traffic calming.

The City can spend exorbitant amounts of money on housing in the Bullitt/Jamison Avenue area, but the area will be in trouble if traffic calming measures are not put in place that will at least reduce speed to the posted limit.

There is a need to review street design to the point where street design drives the speed limit(s); and street design, many times, determines land use.

Traffic counts serve no useful purpose if traffic is moving at 60 miles per hour because motorists will not stop at business establishments, therefore, speed determines whether traffic will stop at a certain point.

Those cities that talk about being pedestrian friendly and slowing down traffic also have elements in their cities that the City of Roanoke does not have; i.e.: some form of mass transit that will move persons expeditiously throughout the locality, and the City of Roanoke should look at creating a balance.

Before spending the kind of money that will be required to turn Williamson Road into a two way street, it was proposed, on an experimental basis, to close the two outside lanes on Williamson Road for one month, in order to determine the impact on traffic and outlying Williamson Road neighborhoods and businesses.

Is there a neighborhood association or business association that would volunteer an arterial street on an experimental basis in order to implement traffic calming measures?

It is agreed that the City of Roanoke must be accessible, but at what speed. All of the "Warehouse Row" projects in the world and all of the shell buildings that the City could possibly need could be constructed, but unless Roanoke is a liveable community, it will not attract technology-type persons to the area because they can live anywhere in the United States that they choose to live.

The Comprehensive Plan drafts the framework for a liveable City and the City of Roanoke should develop a plan to look at framework and non-framework streets that can be adopted by Council that will provide City staff with a clear understanding of the policy direction of the Council.

With regard to the Brandon Avenue section of the Mudlick/Edgewood intersection, why did the City construct a two way turning lane, and what does that suggest that the City should do with other projects? It

was noted by staff that the Brandon Avenue project evolved as a part of the entire Peters Creek Road process, and the City of Roanoke was not focused on the ideas that are being shared with Council today. The City Manager advised that the City could take what has been done on Brandon Avenue and embellish it in such a way that will acknowledge some of the principles that are in the Comprehensive Plan by taking portions of the center left turn lane and creating an attractive green median, or raised cross walk. It was noted that funding would be less of an issue if such items had been included when the entire project was under construction, rather than go back and make changes now.

It is necessary to strike a balance between residential and arterial routes, to provide for the needs of all citizens, to address arterial routes that get people in and out of the City, because if the City of Roanoke is not user friendly, people will not be attracted to the area. Therefore, it is important to reach a balance between the two, and certain things can be done that will provide for both.

With regard to the repaving of a portion of Williamson Road, there is a proposal to take two of the lanes and turn them into bike lanes in order to address the needs of the younger generation. Greenways are wonderful, but many citizens have stated that if there was a way to ride their bicycle to work, a greater number of persons would not drive their automobiles.

It is hoped that the City will move forward and accommodate the citizens and businesses of the Williamson Road area which are vital to the survival of the City of Roanoke.

Question was raised as to the timetable for resolving issues on Williamson Road; whereupon, the City Manager referred to a series of meetings and discussions with various community and business representatives in the area. She expressed concern that a proposed plan for Williamson Road might not take into account the findings of the Comprehensive Plan in regard to arterial routes; therefore, in August 2002, it was reported to the Council and to the community that the restriping of a portion of Williamson Road would be placed on hold pending direction from the Council as to its acceptance and/or commitment to those elements of the Comprehensive Plan relative to off streets, or whether or not staff should modify the plan. She explained that even if there is a change of opinion in regard to how to restripe Williamson Road, it would be spring 2003 before paving could begin, given the paving schedule and the limited amount of time left in the paving season. Therefore, she stated that in the intervening time, it is proposed, with direction by Council, to look at what modifications could and should be made to accommodate the area and to demonstrate more of the principles of pedestrian friendliness and traffic calming, while recognizing the responsibility to move a certain number of vehicles up and down Williamson Road in a given amount of time.

Ben Burch, III, President, Airlee Court Neighborhood Association, presented a petition signed by approximately 231 persons with regard to paving of Williamson Road. He advised that Williamson Road is past due for paving; and after 12 years, repaving was scheduled for 2001, but was delayed because restriping was an issue. He further advised that the public at large, residents and businesses were asked to respond to the City's three proposals for the project and based on those responses, the City made a decision to have a center turn lane from Angell Avenue to Hershberger Road; and Williamson Road residents request the repaving and restriping of Williamson Road as was previously scheduled and funded.

At 2:00 p.m., the Mayor declared the meeting in recess to be immediately reconvened in the City Council Chamber, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke.

At 2:00 p.m., on Tuesday, October 3, 2002, the regular meeting of City Council reconvened in the Roanoke City Council Chamber, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with the following Council Members in attendance, Mayor Smith presiding.

PRESENT: Council Members William D. Bestpitch, William H. Carder, M. Rupert Cutler, Alfrerd T. Dowe, Jr., C. Nelson Harris, Linda F. Wyatt and Mayor Ralph K. Smith-----7.

ABSENT: None-----0.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by The Reverend Catherine A. Houchins, Pastor, Metropolitan Community Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Smith.

PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

PROCLAMATIONS-POLICE DEPARTMENT: The Mayor presented a Proclamation declaring the month of October 2002, as Crime Prevention Month.

PROCLAMATIONS-FIRE DEPARTMENT: The Mayor presented a Proclamation declaring the week of October 6-12, 2002, as Fire Prevention Week.

PROCLAMATIONS-BLUE RIDGE BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE: The Mayor presented a Proclamation declaring the week of October 6-12, 2002, as Mental Illness Awareness Week.

PROCLAMATIONS: The Mayor presented a Proclamation declaring the month of October 2002, as National Arts and Humanities Month.

PROCLAMATIONS-DISABLED PERSONS: The Mayor presented a Proclamation declaring the month of October 2002, as National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor advised that all matters listed under the Consent Agenda were considered to be routine by the Members of Council and would be enacted by one motion in the form, or forms, listed on the Consent Agenda, and if discussion was desired, that item would be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

MINUTES: Minutes of the regular meeting of City Council held on Monday, August 19, 2002, were before the body.

(For full text, see Minutes on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Mr. Carder moved that the reading of the Minutes be dispensed with and that the Minutes be approved as recorded. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Carder, Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

EASEMENTS-WATER RESOURCES: A communication from the City Manager advising that the City of Roanoke Water Division has been contacted by a developer, John Griffin, regarding Kingston Estates, a new subdivision to be constructed in Roanoke County; the main water distribution line from the Falling Creek Filtration Plant runs through the property proposed for development, which water line has existed in this location for approximately 100 years; the water line runs at a diagonal through the property, which impacts the above referenced housing layout - two houses would be less than ten feet from this line; the line is under very high pressure and could cause considerable damage to property if left in its current location; and leaving the water line in its current location would make routine or emergency maintenance very difficult, was before Council.

It was further advised that the City has requested the contractor to locate the water line in a new easement outside the lots in a dedicated water line easement; the new line and the new easement will be in place before the existing easement is

vacated; the water line relocation has been completed and is acceptable to the City's Utility Department; the contractor has requested the City to quitclaim its easement through the roads which the Virginia Department of Transportation requires in order to accept the road system for maintenance; and the City Attorney and the attorney for the developer have agreed on a Deed of Release and Dedication for the water line and the Deed of Quitclaim that is acceptable to the City of Roanoke.

The City Manager recommended, following a public hearing, execution of a Deed of Release vacating the existing water line easement, the Deed of Dedication establishing a new water line easement and a Deed of Quitclaim for the Virginia Department of Transportation for the easement through the roadway right-of-way.

Mr. Carder moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager to schedule a public hearing on the matter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Carder, Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE-OATHS OF OFFICE-CITY CLERK-CITY ATTORNEY-COMMITTEES-HOUSING/AUTHORITY-MUNICIPAL AUDITOR-TRANSPORTATION SAFETY-FIFTH PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION: The following reports of qualification were before Council:

William M. Hackworth as City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall as Director of Finance; Mary F. Parker as City Clerk; and Troy A. Harmon as Municipal Auditor, for the City of Roanoke, for two year terms of office, commencing October 1, 2002, and ending September 30, 2004;

Raymond Debose, Jr., as a member of the Fair Housing Board, to fill the unexpired term of Bruce L. Robinson, resigned, ending March 31, 2003;

Ben A. Burch, III, as a member of the City of Roanoke Transportation Safety Commission, for a term ending October 31, 2004; and

R. Brian Townsend as a member of the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission, to fill the unexpired term of Evelyn S. Lander, resigned, ending June 30, 2003.

Mr. Carder moved that the reports of qualification be received and filed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Carder, Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: NONE.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFINGS:

HOUSING/AUTHORITY-GRANTS: The City Manager introduced a briefing with regard to the "Southeast by Design" project. She advised that the purpose of the briefing was to provide a community update as the City of Roanoke embarks upon a plan for revitalization of this portion of the southeast area.

Michael Etienne, Acting Director of Housing and Neighborhood Services, advised that approximately five months ago, the City of Roanoke retained the services of Marsh Witt and Associates to develop a master plan for the "Southeast by Design" pilot project, which is located between 6th and 13th Streets, S. E. He stated that the southeast corridor is the first area selected under the City's new neighborhood revitalization initiative, which is essentially to concentrate Federal housing funds in one neighborhood at a time in order to achieve a visible and lasting impact and to leverage investment. He explained that master planning would serve as a guide for neighborhood revitalization activity on the corridor which is referred to as "Southeast by Design." He introduced Terrence Harrington, Director of Planning Services, Marsh Witt and Associates, to present a briefing on the master plan design.

Mr. Harrington presented a status report on the findings and recommendations of the "Southeast by Design" Community Master planning process. He advised that the goal was to prepare a master plan that could be used by the City of Roanoke and the community as a guide for community revitalization, with the primary focus on housing revitalization and housing infill; however, the plan will ultimately address community service needs, commercial infill, rehabilitation plans, and transportation needs and issues in the corridor. He noted that the project consists of the Bullitt/Jamison corridor between 6th and 13th Streets, and contains

a variety of land uses, the primary land use being single family homes consisting of approximately 111, and 35 additional multi-family structures; however, 30 of the 35 structures were at one time constructed as single family homes and through their life transition were converted into either a duplex unit or an accessory apartment. He advised that of the houses in the corridor, approximately 33 per cent represent the median housing value in the City, household incomes are approximately 50 per cent median City-wide income, 57 per cent of the units are owner-occupied compared to the City rate of 56 per cent, and most of the single family homes with the highest degree of ownership are located in those portions of the corridor east of 9th Street. He explained that 20 per cent of the land area is designated as commercial nodes, and the 9th Street commercial node and the 13th Street commercial node are designated as desirable village center areas in the Vision 2001 Plan and in the draft Belmont Neighborhood Plan. He stated that approximately ten per cent of the land area, or approximately six acres of land is vacant, and 45 vacant parcels, most of which were at one time used for housing, have been removed for a variety of reasons. He called attention to a four step process that was used over the past five months consisting of analyzing existing conditions, looking at land use patterns, ownership patterns, vacant land and vacant units (nine); and a comprehensive housing quality evaluation was undertaken looking at the external components of all 146 residential structures in the corridor by evaluating 12 different components of the property, ranging from roofs and chimneys, to windows, grounds, doors, and electricity. He added that following the evaluation, it was determined that approximately 36 of the units are below average and approximately 44 units are of average quality, and the housing quality analysis will provide a guide in terms of where to direct funding for the most immediate needs and for the most immediate benefit to the neighborhood. He stated that appropriate stakeholder interviews were conducted in an effort to gather background information on community issues and needs, a neighborhood design workshop was held on July 22 - 23, which provided an opportunity for residents and property owners to share ideas about appropriate infill design, traffic mitigation, and landscaping, etc. He advised that monthly meetings were held with the community steering team which was instrumental in setting community needs, priorities, and identifying neighborhood issues.

Mr. Harrington stated that five priorities have been identified, the top being housing rehabilitation in terms of the direction of efforts and resources; at least 44 structures are considered to be good candidates for substantial rehabilitation and at least an equal or greater number of structures are candidates for minor renovation; therefore, over one-half of the structures in the corridor would benefit from some type of community revitalization. He advised that community services were identified as a priority for the neighborhood and the project; for a number of months the neighborhood has been working to locate a health care center in the southeast corridor; residents are anxiously waiting for the opening of the police

substation which they believe will be of benefit to the corridor; and residents are hopeful that a community recreation center will be located somewhere in southeast and in the project area. He called attention to suggestions in the planning process that there be an evaluation of vacant property within the corridor to determine whether or not such community facilities could be located in the project area and, if so, vacant land should be used for the above referenced community service facilities and not for infill housing. He stated that of the 43 vacant lots, housing infill is a potential in the corridor by both public and private action. He recommended, as the City continues the process to adopt neighborhood design district standards, that infill housing be compatible by design and scale perspective with existing housing. He advised that the fourth priority was traffic and neighborhood calming; the area is a major transportation corridor for the community, with approximately 24,000 vehicles per day traveling in and out of the City through the area; therefore, recommendations involve investigation of alternatives to ensure that the streets are brought back to the neighborhood character through neighborhood calming and traffic calming technology. He explained that the fifth priority relates to commercial rehabilitation and infill and called attention to two new examples of commercial development in the corridor: Advance Store and CVS Pharmacy, with most of the other commercial properties being relatively dated and suffering from lack of landscaping and outdated signage. He called attention to numerous opportunities for housing revitalization activities and opportunities in terms of evaluating traffic and commercial uses. He referred to the following two components for implementation; i.e.: the housing component - - in the near future, Council will be requested to enter into agreements with the City of Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority and Blue Ridge Housing Development Corporation to serve as lead housing agencies to implement the housing components, and Blue Ridge Housing Development Corporation will sponsor a faith-based organization, World Changers, involving approximately 350 youth who will participate in minor home activities in the corridor in the summer of 2003. He advised that three lending institutions, in addition to private leveraging being brought by the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority and Blue Ridge Housing Development Corporation, have blended activities and resources in the amount of \$1.7 million, some of which is in inkind services, publications, and actual financing. He presented copy of the non-housing component and plans of the City of Roanoke for implementation of various activities outside of housing, which lists the various City departments agencies and resources they plan to contribute for implementation of the "Southeast by Design" project.

Council Member Carder commended the work of The Reverend David Walton, Pastor, Belmont Christian Church, and the Faith Works organization. He requested an update on the complexity of the project and those City departments participating in the process.

Mr. Etienne advised that neighborhood revitalization is a complex activity because it requires not just housing, but City resources to address traffic, community health care, neighborhood planning, etc. He stated that 17 City departments have committed their resources to revitalize the community which is a major undertaking that requires not only Federal housing funds, but City resources. He expressed appreciation to those City departments that have committed approximately \$500,000.00 toward revitalization of the corridor, and explained that for every \$1.00 of Federal funds devoted to the project, the City is leveraging the project with \$4.00; therefore, the City of Roanoke is leveraging the \$1.5 million invested in the community with \$4.8 million in private funds, while continuing to work with other financial institutions to increase the leverage.

Question was raised in regard to traffic calming mitigation; whereupon, the City Manager advised that as specific plans are developed, and because the traffic challenge is particularly onerous, it may be necessary to come back to Council with regard to the traffic situation. She stated that because southeast was the first community to be addressed under the program, the next Council agenda will include a report on those neighborhoods that will be targeted following completion of the "Southeast by Design" project. She advised that it is anticipated that it will take longer than 12 months to complete the stated goals in the southeast area; therefore, it may be necessary to focus on the southeast corridor for two years, as opposed to the one year that was initially envisioned. She explained that future neighborhoods will have neighborhood plans already developed which will enable activities to be completed at a faster pace.

Mr. Etienne advised that the National Housing Design competition will be held in January, 2003 and winning designs will be used in the "Southeast by Design" pilot project. He stressed the importance that houses constructed in the community are compatible with existing housing, and winning designs from the National Housing Design competition will be used as a model for the community.

Without objection by Council, the Mayor advised that the briefing would be received and filed.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM-ROANOKE ARTS COMMISSION-ART ACQUISITION-SCHOOLS: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that at its regular meeting on September 3, 2002, Council received a staff recommendation regarding potential changes to current guidelines for the Percent for Art Program; at that time, Mark McConnel, Chair, Roanoke Arts Commission, presented suggested changes to the guidelines as prepared by staff; Council referred the proposed guidelines back to the City Manager for a second review in an effort to reach consensus with the Arts Commission; and subsequently, Council met with the School Board on September 16, 2002, to discuss involvement of the Schools in the Percent for Art Program.

It was further advised that guidelines have now been revised to incorporate changes suggested by the Arts Commission Chairman and Members of Council; guidelines have also been revised to reflect participation by Roanoke City Schools in the Program; and cost to begin implementation is \$192,701.00 based on one per cent of construction cost for eligible capital projects, including School projects, in the Capital Improvements Program.

The City Manager recommended that Council adopt a measure approving revised guidelines for the Percent for Art Program.

Mr. Cutler offered the following resolution:

(#36076-100302) A RESOLUTION endorsing a Percent-for-Art Program, and repealing Resolution No. 33077-081996, adopted on August 19, 1996, which adopted certain guidelines for the Percent-for-Art Program; and adopting new guidelines for the Program.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 66, page 437.)

Mr. Cutler moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36076-100302. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch.

Robert Humphreys, Vice-Chair, Roanoke Arts Commission, spoke in support of the guidelines and expressed appreciation to Council and to City staff for their work. He stated that the guidelines will mark a new era for cultural enhancements in the City of Roanoke, and the Roanoke Arts Commission looks forward to working with Council and the citizens of the City of Roanoke. He explained that the Roanoke Arts Commission is in the developmental stage of a long range City wide public art plan that will involve input from City government, business leaders and citizens of Roanoke, and it is the goal of the Arts Commission that the City of Roanoke be seen as a progressive city that has its share of public art and cultural institutions and serves as a successful model for other cities to emulate.

Resolution No. 36076-100302 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Carder, Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

FIRST CITIES COALITION: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that Virginia First Cities is a coalition of 14 of the most fiscally stressed older cities in Virginia advocating State government policy changes that will help create a high quality of life in urban areas, and Roanoke is currently a member city; Virginia First Cities Coalition is determined to develop a more formal relationship among its member cities; a consultant was asked to prepare organizational

documents for Virginia First Cities; and it has been concluded that the structure which best suits this purpose is a Joint Powers Association, allowable by the Code of Virginia, §15.2-1300 et seq; in order for the City of Roanoke to enter into a more formal relationship among the member cities, an ordinance needs to be approved by City Council; and copy of the proposed Joint Powers Association Agreement and By-Laws was presented for Council's consideration.

The City Manager recommended that Council adopt an ordinance authorizing the City of Roanoke to enter into a Joint Powers Association Agreement, pursuant to the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §15.2-1300 et seq.

Mr. Carder offered the following ordinance:

(#36077-100302) AN ORDINANCE authorizing execution of a Joint Powers Association Agreement, dated September 1, 2002, by and among the City and various local governments of the Commonwealth, for the purpose of formally establishing the Virginia First Cities Coalition, and approving the By-Laws of the Coalition, upon certain terms and conditions, and dispensing with the second reading of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 66, page 438.)

Mr. Carder moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36077-100302. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe.

Due to lobbying efforts of the Virginia First Cities Coalition, Council Member Carder called attention to a victory in regard to the street maintenance payment allocation formula, and advised that the street maintenance cost index has been increased by eight per cent, which means an additional \$253,215.00 to the City of Roanoke.

Council Member Bestpitch inquired if the Joint Powers Association Agreement is in draft format; whereupon, the City Attorney advised that the City has not received the final version of the agreement. Mr. Bestpitch called attention to instances in the draft agreement where it states, "take such other legal actions as are appropriate", and suggested that the word "lawful" be used in lieu of "legal", since legal action means taking one to court and lawful action means doing those things that are within the law, or not specifically against the law.

Mr. Bestpitch also inquired about discussions in regard to membership cost for localities; whereupon, the City Manager advised that current members pay an annual fee and there is no indication at this time that the annual fee will increase. She stated that any change would have to be presented to the member organization

in the spring of the year for adoption/incorporation into the annual operating budget and any change would be effective at the beginning of each fiscal year. She advised that currently, no increased cost is proposed; however if the annual fee increases in the future, member localities would have the opportunity to address the matter prior to enactment. She added that there are ways within the confines of the agreement to withdraw from the organization, should the locality determine the annual fee to be onerous at any point in time.

Mr. Bestpitch advised that the By-Laws speak to the designated elected official or alternate, and the designated administrative official or alternate; however, the agreement does not identify a process by which those individuals are to be appointed. The City Manager explained that it is at the discretion of the individual member localities to determine their membership; Council Member Carder was reaffirmed on July 1, 2002, as the Council's designated representative and the administrative official has typically been the City Manager of each of the participating jurisdictions.

Mr. Bestpitch suggested that the City Manager report to Council with regard to formalizing the process for appointing the designated representative and alternate, and the designated administrative official and alternate.

There was discussion with regard to listing the names of specific individuals assigned to the various offices in the Joint Powers Association Agreement; whereupon, the City Attorney clarified a requirement in the Commonwealth of Virginia that when a new corporation files its initial Articles of Incorporation, it is appropriate to name the initial officers, which are later subject to change.

Ordinance No. 36077-100302 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Carder, Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt
and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT-BUDGET-HUMAN DEVELOPMENT-GRANTS: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the Roanoke Department of Social Services and the State Department of Social Services entered into an agreement in 1994 to establish an Eligibility Worker position through the Department of Social Services to be located at the Roanoke Health Department, to ensure that all citizens have an opportunity to apply for Medicaid; the Agreement remains in effect until modified by mutual consent or operation of law; there is no local cost for the position; approximately 50 per cent of the cost is reimbursed from Federal Medicaid administrative funds, and the Health Department reimburses the remaining cost; and the Roanoke Health Department wishes to continue the service.

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to execute a contract between the City of Roanoke, the State Health Department, and the Virginia Department of Social Services, such agreement to be approved as to form by the City Attorney, to continue the services of the outstationed Eligibility Worker at the Health Department, in accordance with the original agreement; and that Council appropriate \$34,678.00 for fiscal year 2002-03 to revenue and expenditure accounts to be established by the Director of Finance, as follows:

Salary	\$27,203.00
City Retirement	1,700.00
ICMA Match	650.00
FICA	2,081.00
Health Ins.	2,748.00
Dental Ins.	202.00
Disability Ins.	94.00

Mr. Bestpitch offered the following budget ordinance:

(#36078-100302) AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain certain sections of the 2002-2003 Grant Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 66, page 440.)

Mr. Bestpitch moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36078-100302. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Carder, Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

Mr. Dowe offered the following resolution:

(#36079-100302) A RESOLUTION authorizing the City Manager to execute, on behalf of the Department of Social Services, an Agreement between the Roanoke City Department of Social Services, the State Health Department and the Virginia Department of Social Services for the continued services of an Eligibility Worker at the Health Department, upon certain terms and conditions.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 66, page 441.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36079-100302. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Carder, Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

SIGNALS AND ALARMS-TRAFFIC: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) approved an application from the City of Roanoke in 1998 for installation of railroad crossing gates on Norfolk Avenue, west of 3rd Street, S. E, which location is presently controlled by flashing lights; funding to install the new gates and replace the flashing lights is 90 per cent Federal and ten per cent local; VDOT allows 98 per cent of the local share to be funded from Roanoke's annual allocation of urban construction funds; of the \$329,400.00 estimated for the project, Roanoke will be left with a direct cost of \$658.80 (0.2 per cent of total cost); and existing operating accounts within the Transportation Division of the Department of Public Works can fund the City of Roanoke's share of this project.

It was further advised that an agreement between the City of Roanoke, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Norfolk Southern Railway Company has been prepared and provided to the City for execution; in addition to construction cost, there is an annual maintenance fee of \$987.50 for which the City of Roanoke will be responsible, which likewise can be funded from the Transportation Division's operating accounts; and authority is needed for the City Manager to execute the agreement on behalf of the City of Roanoke.

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to execute, on behalf of the City of Roanoke, an agreement with the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Norfolk Southern Railway Company.

Mr. Harris offered the following resolution:

(#36080-100302) A RESOLUTION authorizing execution of an agreement between the City and the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Transportation, and the Norfolk Southern Railway Company, said agreement relating to the installation of flashing light signals and short arm gates at the crossing of Norfolk Avenue.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 66, page 442.)

Mr. Harris moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36080-100302. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Carder, Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

POLICE DEPARTMENT-BUILDINGS/BUILDING DEPARTMENT-BUDGET: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that in January 2002, a contract for consulting services between the City of Roanoke and Ronald M. Martin & Associates, P.C., t/a Martin & Associates, P.C., for the Police Building project – Phase II, was terminated for cause based on the consultant's inability to maintain the project schedule and due to the loss of key personnel within its organization; and upon termination, the City paid approximately \$63,000.00 for services rendered to date.

It was further advised that in January 2002, a Request for Proposals to solicit professional architectural and engineering services to complete the Phase II portion of the Police Building project was publicly advertised; and the City received proposals from four architectural-engineering design firms, with the firm of Cederquist Rodriguez Ripley, P.C., d/b/a Rodriguez Ripley Maddux Motley being selected as the best qualified to provide the required services.

It was stated that City staff has negotiated an acceptable agreement for the above referenced work with Rodriguez Ripley Maddux Motley, for a lump sum fee of \$345,000.00, which includes all normal ("basic") architectural/engineering design, bid and construction phase services; cost for project design has increased due to introduction of a new consultant; the new consultant will also assist the City in preparation of several development options related to the proposed site, which services were not included in the previous scope of work; total funding in the amount of \$375,800.00 is needed for the project; funding in excess of the contract amount is needed to support advertising expenses, reproduction of bid documents, and other unforeseen project expenses; and funding is available in the following accounts:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
New Police Building Construction	008-052-9563	\$ 34,000.00
Police Building Design	008-052-9564	201,000.00
Capital Improvement Reserve	008-052-9575-9173	<u>140,000.00</u>
		<u>\$ 375,800.00</u>

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to execute a Contract for Consultant Services for the above referenced work with Cederquist Rodriguez Ripley, P.C., d/b/a Rodriguez Ripley Maddux Motley, in the amount of \$345,000.00; that Council transfer \$34,000.00 from Account No. 008-052-9563, New Police

Building Construction, \$201,800.00 from Account No. 008-052-9564, Police Building Design, and \$140,000.00 from Account No. 008-052-9575-9173, Capital Improvements Reserve, to an account to be established by the Director of Finance entitled, Police Building Design – Phase II.

Mr. Harris offered the following ordinance:

(#36081-100302) AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain certain sections of the 2002-2003 Capital Projects Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 66, page 443.)

Mr. Harris moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36081-100302. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Carder, Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

Mr. Bestpitch offered the following resolution:

(#36082-100302) A RESOLUTION authorizing a contract with Cederquist Rodriquez Ripley, P. C., d/b/a Rodriguez Ripley Maddux Motley, for architectural and engineering services for the Police Building Project - Phase II.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 66, page 444.)

Mr. Bestpitch moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36082-100302. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Carder, Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

BUDGET-FIRE DEPARTMENT-EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is designed as an opportunity for the United States Congress to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to enhance basic fire service delivery across the United States; over 19,000 fire departments applied for grant awards this year; however, 5,000 departments will receive the allotted \$360 million to support fire protection, EMS delivery, vehicle purchase, and prevention programs in 2002.

It was further advised that the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the United States Fire Administration recently announced that the Roanoke Fire-EMS Department has been awarded a \$624,840.00 grant from the 2002 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program; the total award package includes a local match of 30 per cent, totaling \$187,452.00, which is budgeted in Account No. 001-520-3213-9132; the grant was authored and submitted in collaboration with Randall Funding and Development, Inc., the firm with which Council authorized execution of a contract for grant writing services earlier this year; and to date, not inclusive of matching funds, \$570,388.00 in grant funding (\$15,000.00 non-monetary) has been generated to the City through the contract, at a cost of \$121,000.00 for two years.

It was explained that the award will be used by the Fire/EMS Department for support in Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety; specifically, the award will be used to acquire new firefighting equipment in the form of Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) kits and to update personal protective equipment by replacing old and obsolete air packs.

The City Manager recommended that Council authorize acceptance of the grant award; authorize the City Manager to execute the required grant agreement and any other related documents, and establish appropriate revenue and expenditure estimates in the Grant Fund in accounts to be determined by the Director of Finance; and approve transfer of the City's match, in the amount of \$187,452.00, from Account No. 001-520-3213-9132, to Transfers to Grant Fund account.

Mr. Dowe offered the following ordinance:

(#36083-100302) AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain certain sections of the 2002-2003 General and Grant Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 66, page 445.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36083-100302. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Carder, Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

Mr. Bestpitch offered the following resolution:

(#36084-100302) A RESOLUTION authorizing the acceptance of a certain Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and authorizing execution of any required documentation on behalf of the City.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 66, page 446.)

Mr. Bestpitch moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36084-100302. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Carder, Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

CITY ATTORNEY:

BUDGET-LEGISLATION-SCHOOLS: The City Attorney submitted a written report advising that at the Council meeting on September 16, 2002, after reviewing a Virginia Education Association resolution concerning the educational funding crisis in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Council referred the matter to the City Attorney for preparation of a resolution for consideration by Council; whereupon, in accordance with the request of Council, he transmitted a resolution expressing the City Council's concerns regarding the educational funding crisis in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Ms. Wyatt offered the following resolution:

(#36085-100302) A RESOLUTION declaring the educational funding crisis in the Commonwealth to be of paramount importance to the City, its residents and its school children.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 66, page 447.)

Ms. Wyatt moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36085-100302. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Carder, Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE:

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE-AUDITS/FINANCIAL REPORTS: The Director of Finance submitted the Financial Report for the City of Roanoke for the month of July, 2002.

The Director of Finance pointed out that sales tax is up by 1.6 per cent compared to a year ago, which is positive because the sales tax was previously declining on a month to month basis. He stated that he has been working with cell phone companies to better identify the locality of residence of an individual cell phone customer, and the method by which the cell phone company divides the cell phone tax. He advised that prior to closing the fiscal year on June 30, 2002, the City received a payment from a major cell phone company of approximately \$400,000.00, with the understanding that on a monthly basis, the City of Roanoke is owed a major share of cell phone tax collections in the Roanoke Valley. He stated that everyone is anxiously awaiting news from the Governor on proposed State budget reductions, and the City Manager has identified several measures to be taken by the City in anticipation of State funding reductions.

There being no questions and without objection by Council, the Mayor advised that the Financial Report would be received and filed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.

INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE-CITY COUNCIL: Mr. Cutler offered the following resolution designating William D. Bestpitch as Voting Delegate, and William H. Carder as Alternate Voting Delegate, for the Annual Business Session and meetings of the Urban Section of the Virginia Municipal League, and designating the City Manager as the Staff Assistant for any meetings of the Urban Section to be held on Tuesday, October 22, 2002, in Norfolk, Virginia:

(#36086-100302) A RESOLUTION designating a Voting Delegate and Alternate Voting Delegate for the Annual Business Session and meetings of the Urban Section of the Virginia Municipal League and designating a Staff Assistant for any meetings of the Urban Section.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 66, page 449.)

Mr. Cutler moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36086-100302. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Carder, Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

INQUIRIES AND/OR COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

WATER RESOURCES: Council Member Dowe referred to a recent newspaper article regarding lead poisoning, and inquired if there is anything that can be done to decrease and eventually eliminate lead poisoning and arsenic levels in the City's water supply.

DECEASED PERSONS: Council Member Dowe called attention to the passing of Ms. Lola Morgan, a long time resident of the City of Salem, and requested that the Morgan family be remembered in prayer.

CITY COUNCIL-LANDMARKS/HISTORIC PRESERVATION: Council Member Carder commended Vice-Mayor Harris on his book entitled, Roanoke In Vintage Postcards, which chronicles the history of the City of Roanoke and its architecture through postcards.

COMPLAINTS-CITY COUNCIL-COMMUNITY PLANNING: Council Member Wyatt expressed concern with regard to the proliferation of tattoo parlors in the Williamson Road area. She advised that the City Attorney has provided the City Planning Commission with a draft measure to address the matter and requested that the City Manager expedite the process through the City Planning Commission for presentation to Council as soon as possible.

The City Manager advised that the process could be expedited by approximately six weeks if the Council and the City Planning Commission hold a joint public hearing; therefore, she would refer the matter to the Director of Community Planning and Code Enforcement.

GRANDIN THEATER: Vice-Mayor Harris advised that the grand opening of the Grandin Theater will be held on Sunday, October 20, 2002. He further advised that some Members of Council will be out of the City on October 20; therefore, the Executive Director of the Grandin Theater will be available to provide tours for those Members of Council who cannot attend the grand opening. He expressed appreciation to Council for its support of the Grandin Theater project, which was a public/private partnership to save and renovate a historical theater in the Roanoke community. He advised that on October 20, 2002, the Grandin Theater will come back on the City's tax roles as a tax paying corporate citizen of the community.

YOUTH: The Mayor presented remarks with regard to the White House Conference on "Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children", which he attended on Wednesday, October 3, 2002, in Washington, D. C. He advised that the Conference was attended by the President of the United States and Mrs. Bush, the Attorney General, a

majority of the President's Cabinet, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of State, and John Walsh, host of America's Most Wanted, all of whom were present to emphasize the seriousness of the matter. He stated that many persons were in attendance who had experienced such tragedies in their lives; whereupon, the Mayor called attention to the importance of supporting those organizations that would prevent this type of tragedy from happening in the Roanoke Valley.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES: Council Member Wyatt advised that the Roanoke Express hockey team recently held its first game with Richmond and the second expedition game for this season will be held this evening at the Ice Station. She encouraged citizens to support their home town hockey team.

HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: The Mayor advised that Council sets this time as a priority for citizens to be heard and matters requiring referral to the City Manager will be referred immediately for response, report and recommendation to Council.

No citizens signed up to speak.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

GRANDIN THEATER: The City Manager advised that she had an opportunity to tour the newly renovated Grandin Theater, and the community will be pleased with the changes that have been made to the facility.

CITY COUNCIL-CITY INFORMATION SYSTEMS: In view of time constraints, the City Manager withdrew a briefing on technology which was previously scheduled to be held following the 2:00 p.m. session of City Council.

At 4:10 p.m., the Mayor declared the meeting in recess to be immediately reconvened in the Emergency Operations Center Conference Room, Room 159, for a briefing on a traffic management study.

At 4:15 p.m., the Council meeting reconvened in Room 159, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, for a briefing on a traffic management study.

PRESENT: Council Members William D. Bestpitch, William H. Carder, M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., C. Nelson Harris, Linda F. Wyatt and Mayor Ralph K. Smith-7.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

TRAFFIC-ROANOKE CIVIC CENTER: The City Manager introduced an overview of the traffic management study that addresses parking and traffic issues related to expansion of the Roanoke Civic Center and construction of the new stadium/amphitheater on Orange Avenue, N. W. She advised that both projects are anticipated to be bid shortly after January 1, 2003, with the goal of achieving certain economies through the potential of a single contractor. She introduced Paul Anderson, representing the firm of Hayes, Seay, Mattern and Mattern; Joe Wallace, representing the firm of Weldon Smith Associates; and Kenneth H. King, City of Roanoke Traffic Engineer, members of the team that worked on the traffic management plan. She advised that Mr. Anderson would address the traffic study which covered numerous Roanoke intersections, the proposed management plan for addressing traffic at the Civic Center and any major event in the downtown area, and experiences with regard to two recent large events at the Roanoke Civic Center.

Mr. Anderson addressed the impact of additions/improvements to the Civic Center and construction of a new stadium/amphitheater on Orange Avenue. He stated that traffic must be viewed differently for a venue of this type, as opposed to normal development such as an office park/building, etc., in that there will not be a lot of traffic most of the time; however, when events are held, there will be a large volume of traffic, demanding a large amount of parking spaces. Additionally, he noted that expectations for those persons exiting the facility will be different than for the average development that has week day traffic five days a week throughout the year.

He explained the data gathering phase of the study which involved talking with persons familiar with the operation of civic centers, interviews with stakeholders in the project, and reviewing actual events during the study process. He stated that impacts of the site are not going to be felt at just the Williamson Road/Orange Avenue site alone, but at other major venues and arterials of Williamson Road/Orange Avenue, and as far out as Hershberger Road could be affected when there is a need to route traffic for large events.

He called attention to the method of reviewing traffic, from a typical Friday night hockey game, to a sell out concert at the stadium/amphitheater; therefore, it was decided to review seven different scenarios; i.e.: a major event with a sell out at both sites at the same time, a major event at the civic center, a major event at the stadium/amphitheater, normal events at the civic center and stadium/amphitheater, or those kinds of events that happen 10 - 20 times a year such as a high school football game, and minor events at both sites; i.e.: what happens when there is a high school football game and a hockey game going on at the same time.

He advised that a traffic management plan involves taking the tools that the City has at its disposal and coordinating those tools with traffic in the area, because there is a lot of capacity to bring people to the site, through the use of exit ramps, and parking on the two sites; however, there will not be sufficient parking at either site to handle all vehicles at a sell out event; therefore, the question becomes where will patrons park. He called attention to a large amount of downtown parking which could be utilized with accompanying shuttle bus operations that will serve as the backbone of the traffic

management plan; the need for improved communication with patrons through the use of variable message signs that will advise patrons of the status of the parking lots and directions to nearby parking garages; and temporary signs will be set up on barricades and permanent signs will be flipped up or down depending on whether a shuttle is available. He stated that there should be better communication between parking lot attendants so that they will know when the parking lots are full, the civic center roof top has been used to observe traffic for two recent events, and will continue to be used with appropriate staff and video cameras, and video cameras can be used for security purposes as well. He called attention to the need to accommodate the shuttle bus operations to ensure that they are not detained in traffic, waiting for traffic lights to change, or waiting for vehicular traffic to move on, all of which can cause efficiency to go down. He referred to the need to establish a temporary traffic management center to manage the various agencies involved in an event such as police, civic center on site parking staff, coordination with the Virginia Department of Transportation in regard to message signs on I-581, and Valley Metro staff. He also called attention to the importance of the pedestrian bridge which is intended to link the civic center and the stadium/amphitheater sites, and the need for meetings in order to coordinate plans so that everyone involved is working from one plan.

Kenneth H. King, Traffic Engineer, discussed pre planning traffic management at two recent civic center events; i.e.: the Down From the Mountain concert which was almost a sell out and the Elton John concert which was a sell out. He reviewed management measures that were implemented for both events, including shuttle buses, vehicular parking in the Gainsboro, Church Avenue and Williamson Road parking decks, variable message signs at certain peripheral locations, directions to the various parking decks for those persons who are not familiar with the Roanoke area, a parking attendant who greeted individuals as they exited shuttle buses to remind patrons to remember which shuttle they took and which parking deck they used, and shuttle bus operators communicated over radios with civic center patrons.

Mr. King called attention to measures that were taken to keep a clear corridor for the shuttle bus operation by working with public safety staff and civic center staff to maintain a free flow of traffic, bus priority loop, certain street intersections were chosen where staff could restrict movement and intersection lights were placed on flashing, while other intersections were moved by police control. He advised that each event will be different or unique and will require coordination with the various parties involved; therefore, the key component is pre planning coordination and cooperation with other affected City departments. He stated that the goal of the City is to make shuttle bus operations as attractive, if not more so, than actually driving to the site, because those persons driving to the site create the greatest demand on the system. He called attention to the need to reduce congested traffic points, reroute traffic around congested points, utilize off site parking to its greatest advantage, improve shuttle ramps and efficiency of the shuttle loop, enhance on-street traffic control, effective

communication by staff which will involve all persons working from the same game plan, and staff will have to be proactive and take control of the traffic in order to manage traffic and prevent traffic congestion.

Mr. Lawrence called attention to the importance of coordination of traffic signals for successful traffic management, which can be a 24 hour a day, seven days a week project, and can be used in those instances when an event is not taking place at the civic center and/or stadium/amphitheater and can also be implemented in the event of a traffic accident when traffic needs to be detoured. Also, he indicated that some of the variable message signs that are currently temporary could be made permanent so that they are available for these types of occurrences. He advised that by virtue of sending the parking downtown, an economic spin-off is created for the downtown area; and civic center events are not competing with, but complimenting downtown, i.e.: a patron comes from work, leaves their vehicle parked in its same location, goes to dinner in the downtown area, takes a shuttle bus to the civic center, returns to the downtown area after the event, and takes advantage of activities in the City Market area.

The City Manager advised that the recommendations have applicability to the entire City, and civic center and stadium/amphitheater parking can, in the future, serve as locations to park vehicles when there are major events in the downtown area; therefore, the kinds of tools that will be used for parking can be applied to different scenarios.

Council Member Dowe suggested the use of pre-recorded am radio messages for civic center and stadium/amphitheater patrons to monitor the parking/traffic situation via their car radios, which would enable them to take advantage of alternate routes prior to approaching a multiple message sign.

It was noted that part of the overall publicity package could be the provision of flyers with ticket purchases containing information on available parking and shuttle bus service; and messages could be posted on the City's web-site.

Question was raised as to traffic management for the amphitheater and sports complex; whereupon, Mr. Anderson advised that it is not proposed to widen Williamson Road, but it is envisioned that temporary signage will be used to indicate that through traffic should stay to the right and event traffic should remain in the left lane, and Wayne Street will be used as the main entrance. By using a map of the area, he explained how traffic will enter and exit the stadium/amphitheater complex.

Council Member Wyatt suggested a type of color coding for shuttle buses that could be linked to a certain garage/parking deck.

Upon question, the City Manager advised that currently, the Civic Center parking lot is used by City employees for parking, which has freed up approximately 300 parking spaces in downtown; however, City staff is looking at other distant lots because the Civic Center parking lot cannot be filled up during the day due to day time events that need parking accommodations. She stated that as soon as another distant lot is identified, a shuttle service to downtown will be initiated and Downtown Roanoke, Inc., has expressed an interest in participating in the employee shuttle bus program.

The Mayor suggested that Center in the Square and First Union Tower Parking decks also be used for parking for civic center and stadium/amphitheater events, which would also create a spinoff for restaurants in the City Market area.

There was discussion in regard to costs associated with the traffic management plan in which the City Manager advised that in most communities traffic management is a shared cost between the promoter and the facility; i.e.: the event may require the use of police officer's, but police officers would be paid from a budget other than the City's police budget, and shuttle buses could be funded from a combined promoter fund and/or civic center budget.

(Council Member Bestpitch left the meeting at 5:10 p.m.)

(Council Member Dowe left the meeting at 5:20 p.m.)

At 5:25 p.m., the Mayor declared the meeting in recess for three Closed Sessions which were previously approved by Council.

At 6:00 p.m., the Council meeting reconvened in the City Council Chamber, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with all Members of the Council in attendance, except Council Members Bestpitch and Dowe, Mayor Smith presiding.

COUNCIL: With respect to the Closed Meeting just concluded, Mr. Harris moved that each Member of City Council certify to the best of his or her knowledge that: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in any motion by which any Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by City Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Carder, Cutler, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----5.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Members Bestpitch and Dowe were absent.)

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-INDUSTRIES: The Mayor advised that the term of office of Dennis R. Cronk and Stark H. Jones as members of the Industrial Development Authority will expire on October 20, 2002, and called for nominations to fill the vacancies.

Mr. Harris placed in nomination the names of Dennis R. Cronk and Stark H. Jones.

There being no further nominations, Messrs. Cronk and Jones were reappointed as Directors of the Industrial Development Authority, for terms ending October 20, 2006, by the following vote:

FOR MESSRS. CRONK AND JONES: Council Members Carder, Cutler, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----5.

(Council Members Bestpitch and Dowe were absent.)

OATHS OF OFFICE-TRAFFIC-COMMITTEES-TRANSPORTATION SAFETY: The Mayor advised that there is a vacancy on the City of Roanoke Transportation Safety Commission, and called for nominations to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Harris placed in nomination the name of David Fifer.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Fifer was appointed as a member of the City of Roanoke Transportation Safety Commission, for a term ending October 31, 2004, by the following vote:

FOR MR. FIFER: Council Members Carder, Cutler, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----5.

(Council Members Bestpitch and Dowe were absent.)

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-ROANOKE ARTS COMMISSION: The Mayor advised that there is a vacancy on the Roanoke Arts Commission, and called for nominations to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Harris placed in nomination the name of Betty Branch.

There being no further nominations, Ms. Branch was appointed as a member of the Roanoke Arts Commission, for a term ending June 30, 2005, by the following vote:

FOR MS. BRANCH: Council Members Carder, Cutler, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----5.

(Council Members Bestpitch and Dowe were absent.)

ZONING-Y. M. C. A.: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the City of Roanoke owns approximately 1.99 acres of land in the block bounded by Fifth Street, Campbell Avenue, Sixth Street, and Luck Avenue, S. W., designated as Official Tax Nos. 1113401, 1113408, 1113409, 1113410, 1113411, 1113412, 1113414, 1113418, and 1113419; the only structures on said properties are the Jefferson Center (located on Official Tax No. 1113401) and the Jefferson Gym (located on Official Tax No. 1113414), and the remaining parcels are currently used for parking; the YMCA of Roanoke Valley, Inc., owns approximately 0.902 acre in the same block, identified as Official Tax Nos. 1113415, 1113416, 1113417, 1113420, 1113421, 1113422, 1113423, 1113424, and 1113425; and said parcels are currently used for parking and zoned C-1, Office District.

It was further advised that the YMCA of Roanoke Valley has developed plans for a new central branch facility that involves participation by the City of Roanoke; the proposed project is consistent with the Jefferson Center Initiative of Roanoke Outlook Update, the downtown component of the City's Comprehensive Plan; and in order to accommodate moving forward with the project, the City needs to enter into a rezoning petition with the YMCA to rezone said properties from C-1, Office District, to C-3, Central Business District.

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to jointly file with the YMCA of Roanoke Valley, Inc., an application with the City Planning Commission to request that the above described parcels of real estate be rezoned from C-1, Office District, to C-3, Central Business District.

Mr. Carder offered the following resolution:

(#36087-100302) A RESOLUTION authorizing the filing of a petition to rezone property which is owned by the City of Roanoke and which is designated as Official Tax Nos. 1113401, 1113408, 1113409, 1113410, 1113411, 1113412, 1113414, 1113418 and 1113419.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 66, page 450.)

Mr. Carder moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36087-100302. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Carder, Cutler, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----5.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Members Bestpitch and Dowe were absent.)

BUDGET-WATER RESOURCES: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that on February 4, 2002, Council declared that a water supply emergency existed and instituted water conservation measures, which continue as of this date; on April 15, 2002, Council further declared the existence of an emergency in connection with obtaining design services and construction work for certain projects to obtain additional sources of water to increase the City's water supply to assist in dealing with the City's water supply emergency; one of the projects was modified by Council on July 1, 2002, to allow for a temporary filtration system at Crystal Spring; two of the three projects have been completed and the third project is currently underway; since approval of the emergency water supply projects, rainfall has continued to avoid the Carvins Cove Reservoir and watersheds and the City's water reserves continue to drop; and as of September 23, 2002, the level of Carvins Cove Reservoir was 33.6 feet below the spillway, and 4.4 feet below the lowest recorded level.

The City Manager further advised that staff has determined that it is imperative to expedite additional projects to continue to provide water to the City's customers and to extend the life of the Carvins Cove Reservoir; staff requests that deviations to the normal procurement methods be allowed in order to fast track the projects; staff recommends exploration and development of additional well sites utilizing and extending the current contract with Golder Associates Inc., of Richmond, Virginia; estimated cost for additional well sites is \$500,000.00, based on the degree of complexity to evaluate the viability of wells; staff further recommends additional infrastructure water line construction to bring water from the Roanoke County system to the City from the Loch Haven service district, at an estimated cost of \$1,000,000.00, which is expected to yield three million gallons; balance of remaining funds may be used for other water line projects; and if real property needs to be acquired for any of the projects, approval by Council will be requested.

The City Manager recommended that Council appropriate \$500,000.00 from Water Fund retained earnings to Account No. 002-530-8408-9003 – Well Supplements, to provide for exploration, design and construction of additional well projects as above described; appropriate \$1,000,000.00 from Water Fund retained earnings to an account to be established by the Director of Finance, to provide for design and construction of an additional water line(s) as above described, appropriate \$140,000.00 from Water Fund retained earnings to Account No. 002-530-8413-9003 – Crystal Spring Temporary Filtration, to provide for continuation of use of the system, replacement filters and additional monthly lease cost on equipment until the permanent facility is placed on line; that Council declare that an emergency exists within the meaning of §41 of the City Charter and authorize the City Manager to make emergency improvements without following the normal procurement methods, to the extent reasonably necessary for the above referenced projects; authorize the City Manager to negotiate directly with Golder Associates to provide additional consulting and well drilling services and to take such further action, or to execute such documents as may be necessary, to implement and

administer additional well development projects as above referenced, within the above estimated cost; and authorize the City Manager to negotiate and contract directly with appropriate entities to provide and obtain design, construction, equipment, and related work to develop additional infrastructure water line(s) to bring additional water from the Roanoke County system to the City system from the Loch Haven service district as above referenced, within the above estimated cost.

Mr. Harris offered the following budget ordinance:

(#36088-100302) AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain certain sections of the 2002-2003 Water Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 66, page 451.)

Mr. Harris moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36088-100302. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Carder, Cutler, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----5.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Members Bestpitch and Dowe were absent.)

Mr. Carder offered the following ordinance:

(#36089-100302) AN ORDINANCE declaring the existence of an emergency in connection with obtaining certain design services, the lease and/or purchase of equipment, and construction work for certain projects to try to obtain additional sources of water to increase the City's water supply to help with the City's water supply emergency that was declared on February 4, 2002, by Ordinance No. 35741-020402; providing that due to the need to expedite such projects, the normal procurement method of advertising, conducting competitive negotiations, and/or competitive sealed bidding be dispensed with to the extent reasonably necessary; authorizing the City Manager to take such further action and to execute such documents as may be necessary to implement and administer such projects; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 66, page 452.)

Mr. Carder moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36089-100302. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Carder, Cutler, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----5.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Members Bestpitch and Dowe were absent.)

At 6:15 p.m., the Mayor declared the meeting in recess to be reconvened on Sunday, October 6, 2002, at which time the seven Members of Council will participate in the 2002 Roanoke Valley Leadership Trip on October 6 - 8, 2002, in Charleston, South Carolina, coordinated by the Coalition for Economic Development.

A P P R O V E D

ATTEST:

**Mary F. Parker
City Clerk**

**Ralph K. Smith
Mayor**
